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ABSTRACT

In 1989, a study was conducted of the transfer function in California community colleges. The study focused on trends in transfer rates, transfer student characteristics, and the prior academic preparation and post-transfer performance of transfer students. Major findings of the study included the following: (1) of every 12 students enrolled in the California community colleges, four identify transfer as a goal, three of the four take a transfer program, two of the three transfers move to a four-year college, and slightly more than one of the two obtain a bachelor's degree; (2) of every 10 transfers, seven go the California State University (CSU) system, one goes to the University of California (UC) system, one goes to a California private institution, and one goes to an out-of-state institution; (3) the number of transfers to CSU and UC increased by over 8% since 1987; (4) the number of Hispanic transfer students increased during the past decade, Black transfers increased during the past 2 years after 3 years of decline, and American Indian transfers have been relatively constant; (5) the percentage of high school graduates who entered a community college within 3 years of transferring to a UC or CSU campus increased to just over 40% in fall 1988, a 15-year high; (6) the transfer rates of White students are higher than those of other racial and ethnic groups, while those of Black students are lower; (7) the community colleges are enrolling fewer students each year who are eligible to attend UC or CSU; (8) after an initial drop in grades, community college students generally perform as well as students who started as freshmen at UC and CSU; (9) whether transfers or native UC/CSU students, Black and Hispanic students do not perform as well as White and Asian students; (10) the number of potential transfer students in California will probably decrease until 1992, and then increase; and (11) the racial and ethnic makeup of high school graduates will probably include more Asian students and far more Hispanic students in the future. Charts and graphs illustrate the data. (JMC)

ED314110

COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSFER PERFORMANCE

JC900023

SEPTEMBER 1989

Prepared by
Research and Analysis Unit

in cooperation with
Transfer Education and Articulation Unit

Chancellor's Office
California Community Colleges

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September 1989

Chancellor's Office
California Community Colleges

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES TRANSFER PERFORMANCE

THIS PAPER PRESENTS A SERIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE TRANSFER FUNCTION IN THE CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES. EACH OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE ADDRESSED:

	PAGE
1. HOW MANY CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS TRANSFER?	2
2. WHERE DO CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSFERS GO?	4
3. HAS THE NUMBER OF TRANSFER STUDENTS TO UC AND CSU INCREASED OR DECREASED?	6
4. HAS THE NUMBER OF UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITY STUDENTS WHO TRANSFER TO UC AND CSU INCREASED OR DECREASED?	9
5. IS THE TRANSFER "RATE" INCREASING OR DECREASING?	12
6. ARE THE TRENDS IN TRANSFER "RATES" THE SAME FOR ALL RACIAL AND ETHNIC GROUPS?	15
7. ARE POTENTIAL TRANSFER STUDENTS MORE- OR LESS-PREPARED THAN BEFORE?	19
8. HOW DO COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS PERFORM ONCE THEY TRANSFER?	22
9. IS POST-TRANSFER PERFORMANCE THE SAME FOR ALL RACIAL AND ETHNIC GROUPS?	27
10. WILL THE NUMBER OF POTENTIAL TRANSFER STUDENTS DECREASE OR INCREASE?	30
11. HOW WILL THE RACIAL AND ETHNIC MAKEUP OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES CHANGE?	32

1. HOW MANY CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS TRANSFER?

4 of 12 declare, 3 take program, 2 transfer, 1+ gets a BA/BS.

A recent study by the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC), **Update of Transfer Student Statistics, Fall 1987**, indicates that California community colleges transferred more than 61,000 students to California four-year institutions during 1987-88 and probably over 70,000 in total when out-of-state transfers are included.

Measuring the "flow" of community college transfer students, however, involves identifying potential transfer students, following their progress through lower division, identifying the number of those who do transfer, and following their progress through upper division. Unfortunately, such longitudinal data are not currently available for California community college students.

To approximate this production or flow, it is possible to examine a series of cross-section data sets over several years. Extensive analyses of this type were performed by the Chancellor's Office in 1984 (**Transfer Education**) and 1985 (**Transfer Performance: A California Case Study**). These analyses, together with results of the **Statewide Longitudinal Survey** in 1980 and **Field Research Corporation Surveys** in 1984-1986 suggest the following picture of student flow:

Of each dozen California community college students:

- six are enrolled for occupational training
- two are enrolled for basic skills or avocational reasons
- four say they are enrolled for transfer

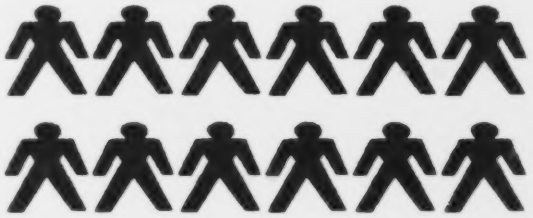
of these four who "declare" a transfer goal:

- three take the necessary course sequence and load
- two of these three ultimately transfer
- slightly more than one of these two, on average, ultimately obtain a BA/BS degree

(see page 3)

TRANSFER

California Community Colleges



OF EVERY 12 STUDENTS

AT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

APPROXIMATELY:

4 IDENTIFY TRANSFER AS A GOAL

3 OF THE 4 TAKE A TRANSFER PROGRAM

2 OF THE 3 TRANSFER TO 4 YR. COLLEGE

1+ OF THE 2 OBTAIN A BA/BS DEGREE

Source: Transfer Performance, Chancellor's Office Dec. 1985

2. WHERE DO CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSFERS GO?

7 of 10 go to CSU, 1 to UC, 1 to private, 1 out-of-state.

According to CPEC's **Update of Transfer Student Statistics, 1987**: 5,467 community college students transferred to the University of California (UC) system and 28,257 transferred to the California State University (CSU) system, a total of 33,724 to both segments in the fall 1987. When transfers to UC and CSU at other times of the year are included, the total for 1987-88 increases to 52,613. About one-third of UC and CSU transfers do so at times other than the fall.

In addition to the UC and CSU transfers, CPEC reported that an estimated 8,755 community college students transferring to private California colleges in Fall 1987. This estimate dropped to 5,238 for Fall 1988, but - in any case - appears to be roughly equal to or perhaps even greater than the number of transfers to UC.

Data are not available on the number of California community college students who transfer to out-of-state colleges. However, past studies have suggested there are a substantial number of out-of-state transfers. The **Statewide Longitudinal Survey (SLS)**, which followed community college students from 1978 through 1980, indicated that approximately one-third of all community college students who were transferring at that time went either to private colleges in California or out-of-state colleges.

In summary, while the data is incomplete, it appears that the number of community college students transferring to CSU is nearly seven times the number transferring to UC (though that ratio is declining) and that, as an approximation, transfers to the California private institutions and to out-of-state institutions may each be roughly equivalent to the number transferring to UC.

(see page 5)

TRANSFER DESTINATION

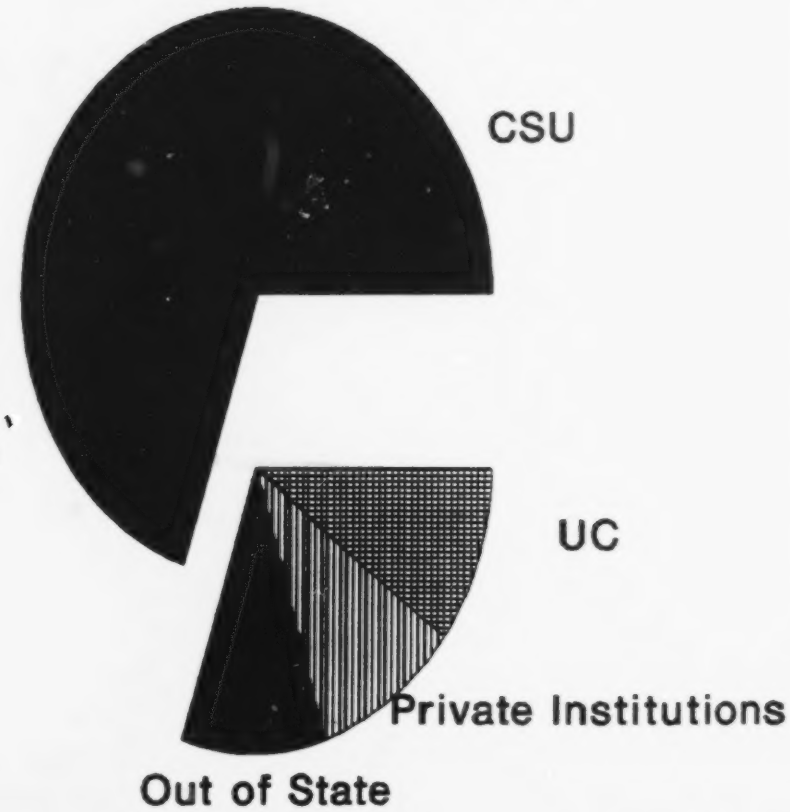
Of Every 10 CC Transfers About:

7 Go to CSU

1 Goes to UC

1 Goes to Calif. Private Institution

1 Goes to an Out of State Institution



Sources: Statewide Longitudinal Survey 1981
Transfer Update 1988, CPEC

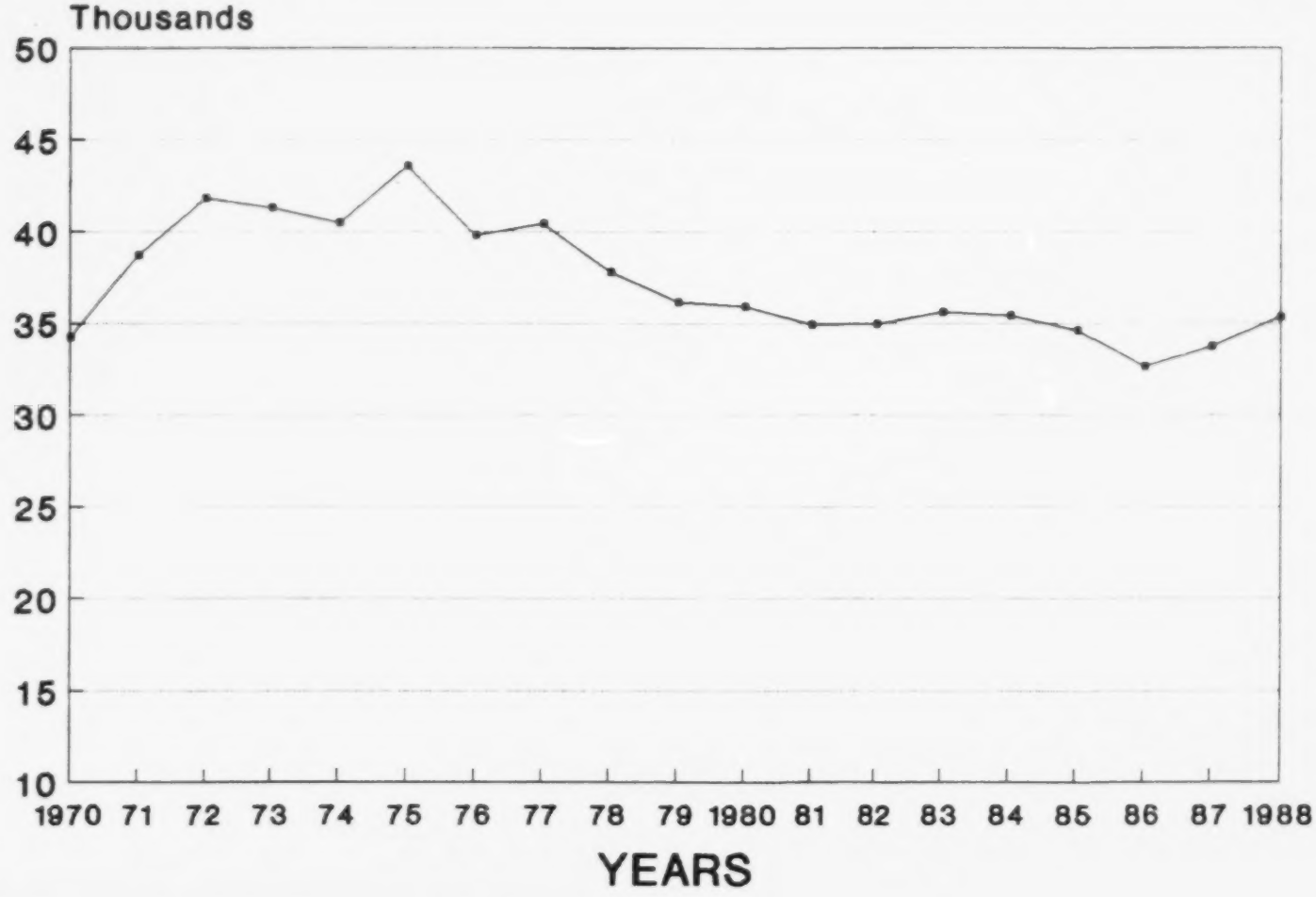
3. HAS THE NUMBER OF TRANSFER STUDENTS TO UC AND CSU INCREASED OR DECREASED?

After a decade of gradual decline, the number of transfers started to increase in 1987.

The total number of community college transfers to UC and CSU increased during the early 1970s to a peak of 43,500 in 1975, then decreased over the next 12 years to a low of 32,600 in 1986. The past two years, UC and CSU transfers have increased by over 8 percent.

(see pages 7 and 8)

NUMBER OF CC TRANSFERS TO UC & CSU



Source: CPEC Transfer Update, Fall 1988

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES STUDENTS WHO TRANSFER TO UC AND CSU

Community College Transfer Students
Fall Term

Year	UC	CSU	Total
1970	5,166	29,059	34,225
1971	6,154	32,546	38,700
1972	7,165	34,619	41,784
1973	8,193	33,098	41,282
1974	7,813	32,646	40,459
1975	8,002	35,537	43,539
1976	7,123	32,653	39,776
1977	6,392	34,001	40,393
1978	6,193	31,609	37,802
1979	5,669	30,483	36,152
1980	5,386	30,527	35,913
1981	4,847	30,072	34,919
1982	5,137	29,824	34,961
1983	5,307	30,274	35,581
1984	5,257	30,134	35,391
1985	4,932	29,682	34,614
1986	4,861	27,761	32,622
1987	5,467	28,257	33,724
1988	5,934	29,393	35,327

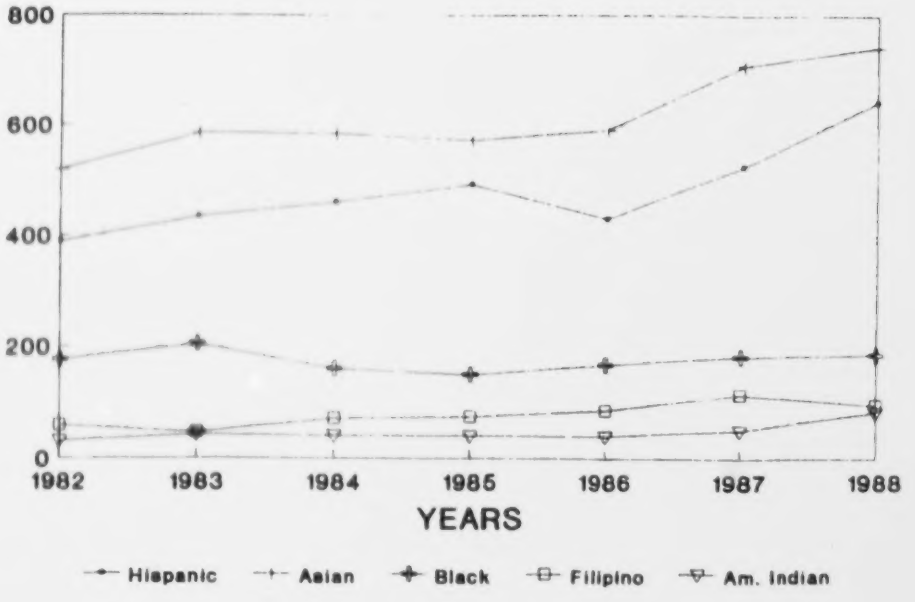
Source: California Postsecondary Education Commission

4. HAS THE NUMBER OF UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITY STUDENTS WHO TRANSFER TO UC AND CSU INCREASED OR DECREASED?

Hispanic transfers, particularly to UC, have increased during this decade. The number of Black transfers increased during the past two years after three years of decline and the number of American Indian transfers each year has been relatively constant.

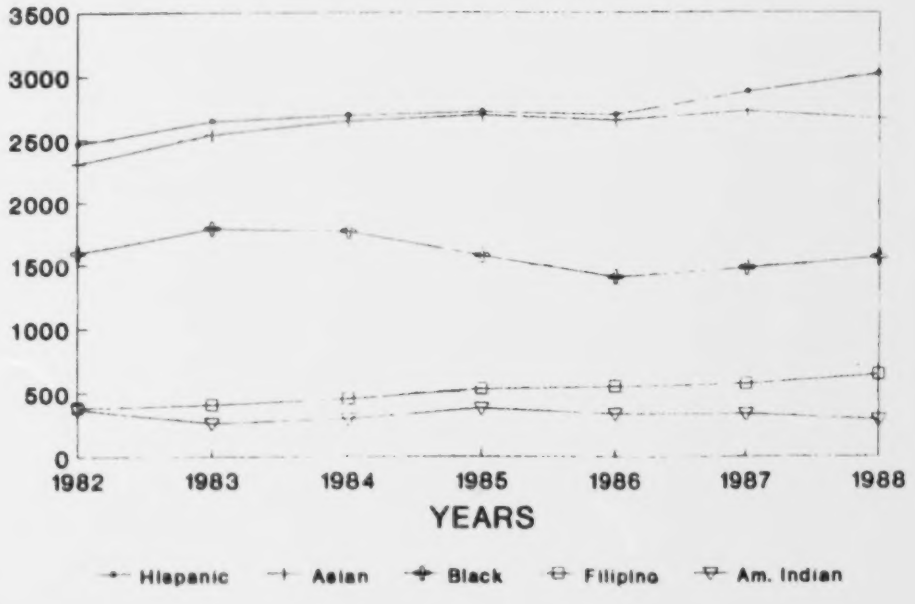
(see pages 10 and 11)

MINORITY STUDENT TRANSFERS TO UC



Source: CPEC Transfer Update, Fall 1988

MINORITY STUDENT TRANSFERS TO CSU



Source: CPEC Transfer Update, Fall 1988

Minority Student Transfers to UC and CSU

Transfer to	Fall	Hispanic	Asian	Black	Filipino	American Indian
UC	1982	389	519	176	60	32
	1983	434	586	205	47	43
	1984	461	585	161	72	41
	1985	493	574	151	75	41
	1986	431	592	168	86	40
	1987	525	709	183	115	51
	1988	643	742	187	96	84
CSU	1982	2,467	2,309	1,593	379	371
	1983	2,644	2,541	1,790	401	257
	1984	2,695	2,649	1,769	446	294
	1985	2,718	2,693	1,577	525	377
	1986	2,698	2,651	1,403	546	332
	1987	2,875	2,721	1,475	567	334
	1988	3,019	2,665	1,560	636	288

Source: California Postsecondary Education Commission

5. IS THE TRANSFER "RATE" INCREASING OR DECREASING?

After a decade of relative stability, the transfer "rate" is now increasing.

Measuring a transfer "rate" for California community college students over time requires a valid definition of the potential pool of transfer students for which data are available. Studies like the **Field Research Corporation (FRC) Student Surveys, 1984-86**, show that most students who indicate their goal is to transfer are young, recent high school graduates. Other studies, including **FRC**, **SLS** and work by **Los Rios**, **Rancho Santiago** and **Foothill-DeAnza** Community College districts indicate that students typically take longer than two years to complete their lower division work prior to transfer - perhaps averaging as much as three years or more.

Based on these findings, the transfer "rate" is defined here as:

number who transfer to UC and CSU

divided by

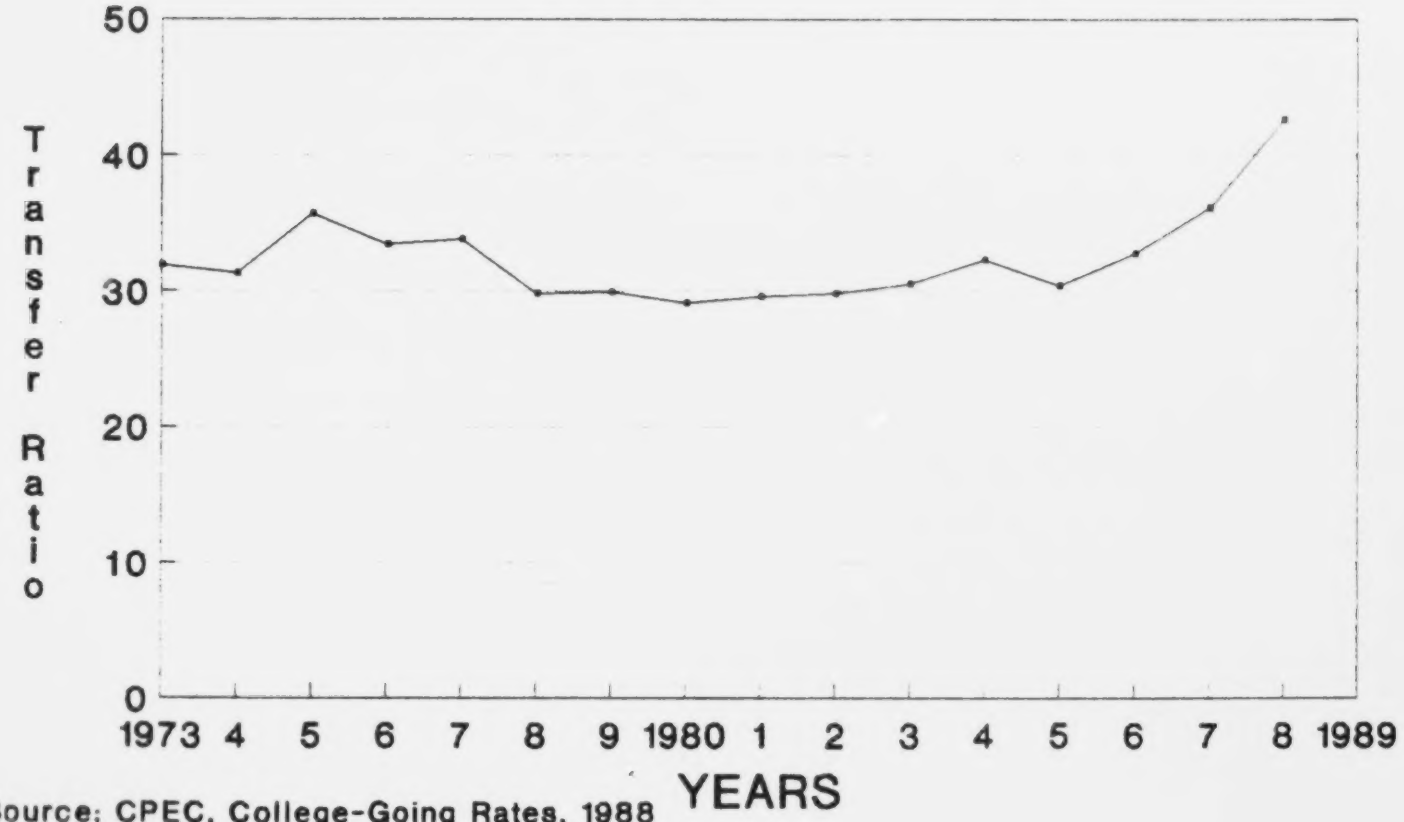
number of California high school graduates who entered community colleges three years prior to transfer

An examination of these data since 1973 shows that after twelve years of relative stability, where the "rate" ranged between 30 and 35 percent, there has been an increase during the past three years (beginning 1986) to just over 40 percent in Fall 1988, a 15-year high.

(see pages 13 and 14)

COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSFER RATE

Ratio of UC & CSU Transfers to H.S. Grads. Admitted to CC 3 yrs. Previous



Source: CPEC, College-Going Rates, 1988
CPEC, Transfer Update, 1988

TABLE__

Transfers to UC and CSU and California High School Graduates

	# of H.S. Grad Going to Community Colleges	# Transfers Fall	Transfers As % of HS Grads 3 years earlier
1970-71	129,358	34,225	--
1971-72	128,918	38,700	--
1972-73	122,043	41,784	--
1973-74	119,046	41,282	31.9
1974-75	119,652	40,459	31.3
1975-76	126,688	43,539	35.7
1976-77	120,702	39,776	33.4
1977-78	123,561	40,393	33.8
1978-79	117,510	37,802	29.8
1979-80	117,269	36,077	29.9
1980-81	116,518	35,918	29.1
1981-82	109,556	34,804	29.6
1982-83	113,815	34,961	29.8
1983-84	99,359	35,579	30.5
1984-85	93,521	35,391	32.3
1985-86	82,877	34,613	30.4
1986-87	90,349	32,619	32.8
1987-88	90,444	33,717	36.1
1988-89	--	35,327	42.6

Source: College Going Rate, CPEC 1987; Transfer Update, CPEC 1988.

6. ARE THE TRENDS IN TRANSFER RATES THE SAME FOR ALL RACIAL AND ETHNIC GROUPS?

Generally yes, except that transfer rates for Whites are higher and rates for Blacks are lower than those of other racial and ethnic groups.

To examine the transfer "rates" of different racial and ethnic groups, we compare the number of transfers with the enrollment of full-time community college students two years prior. (Complete high school graduate data are not available by racial and ethnic group and the use of full-time community college, while not as good a proxy of the potential pool of transfer students, does provide comparable results.)

Since 1982 (using full-time students as the basis), the proportions of Hispanics and Whites transferring have increased gradually while the proportions of American Indians, Filipinos and Asians who transfer first declined and now appear to be increasing. The proportion of Black students transferring has increased over the past three years, but still is just half the rate for White students while the other racial and ethnic groups are clustered between Blacks and Whites.

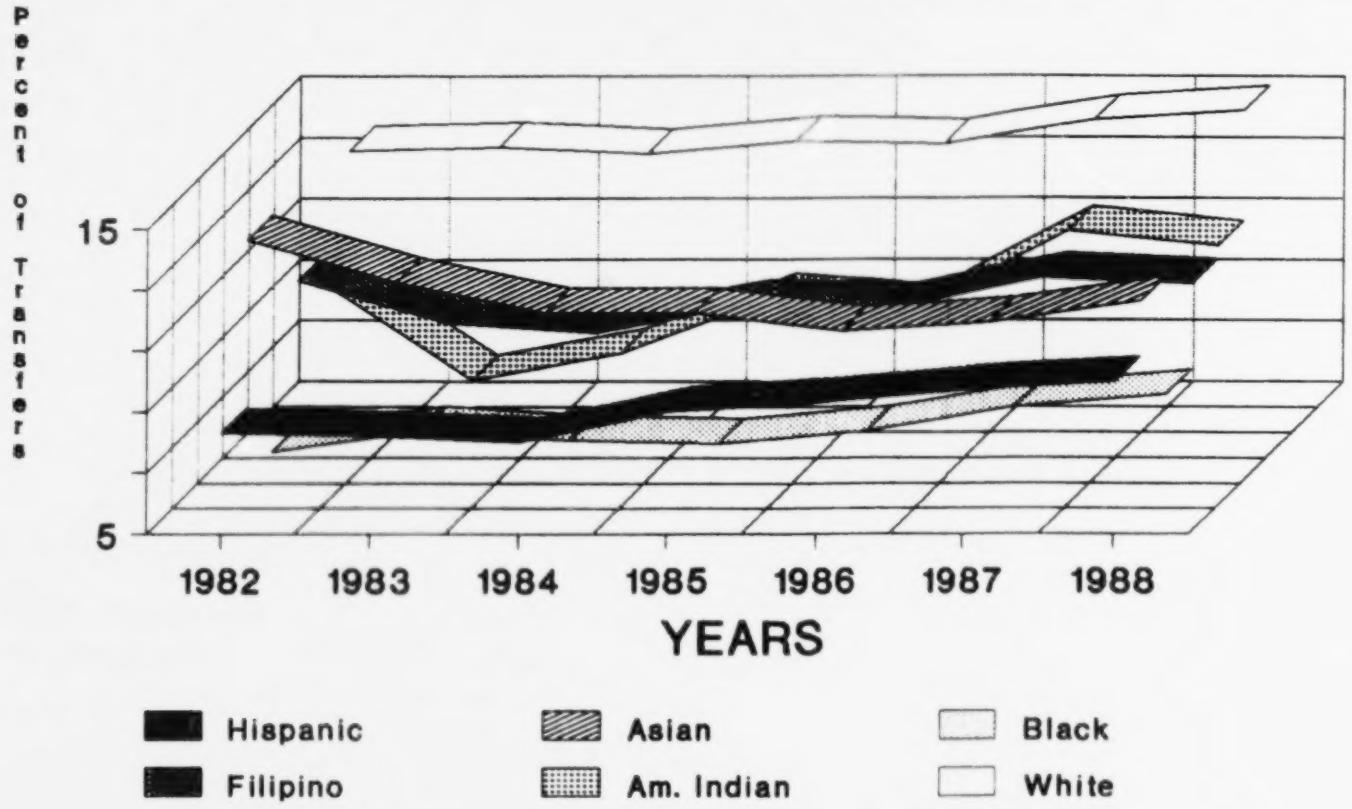
(see page 16)

Numerical trends, by contrast, show that Asians, Filipinos and Hispanics are becoming an increasing proportion of total transfer students to both UC and CSU. Taken together, Blacks and American Indians comprise less than one of every 17 transfer students. Despite their continuing high transfer rates, the number of White students now comprises a smaller proportion of transfers than it did at the beginning of this decade.

(see pages 17 and 18)

FALL TRANSFER RATE BY ETHNIC GROUPS

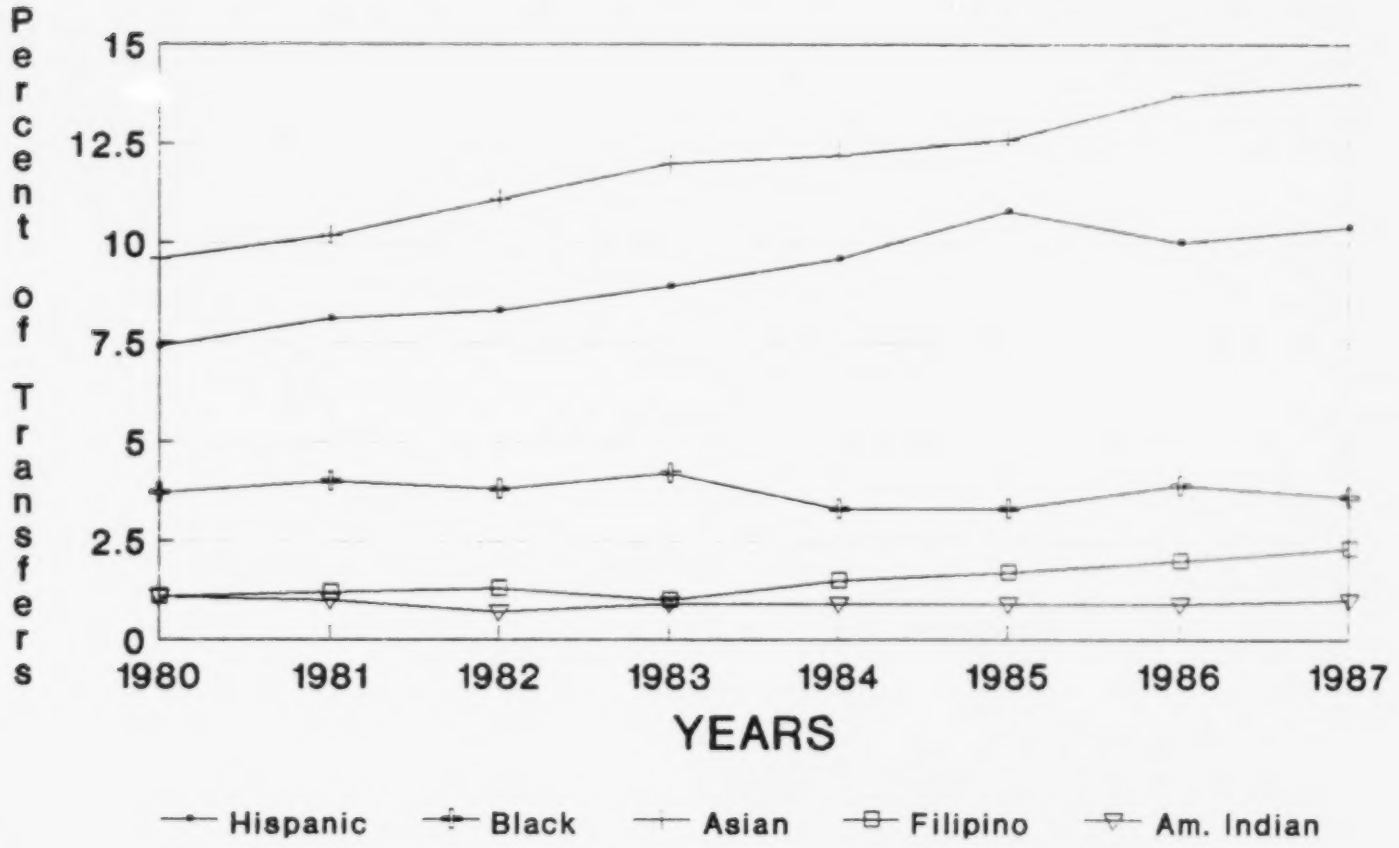
Fall transfers divided by full-time CCC students two years previous



Source: CPEC Transfer Update, 1988

MINORITY TRANSFER DISTRIBUTION

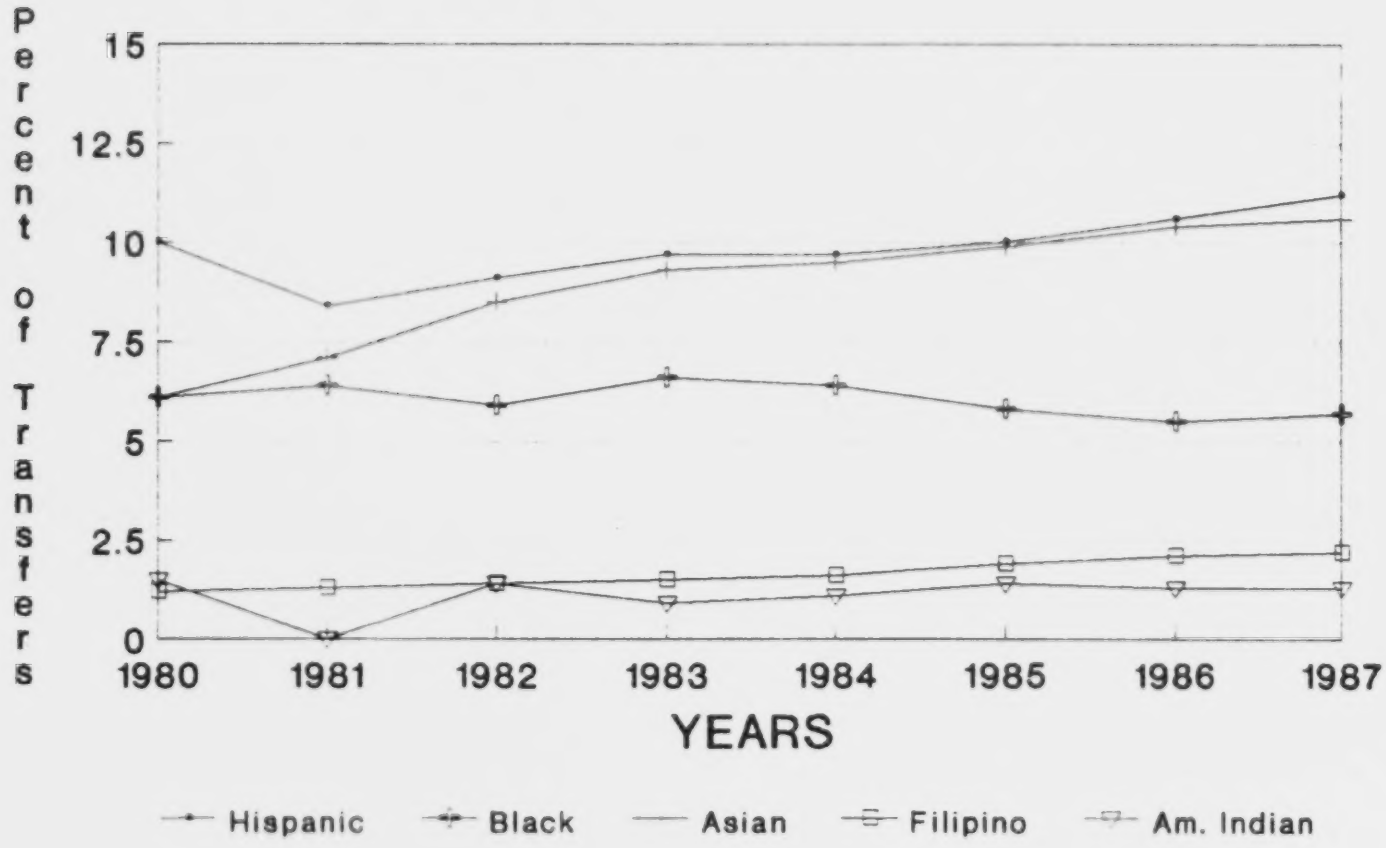
Transfers to University of California



Source: CPEC Transfer Update, 1988

MINORITY TRANSFER DISTRIBUTION

Transfers to California State University



Source: CPEC Transfer Update, 1988

7. ARE POTENTIAL TRANSFERS MORE OR LESS PREPARED THAN BEFORE?

Less. The community colleges are getting fewer 4-year "eligibles."

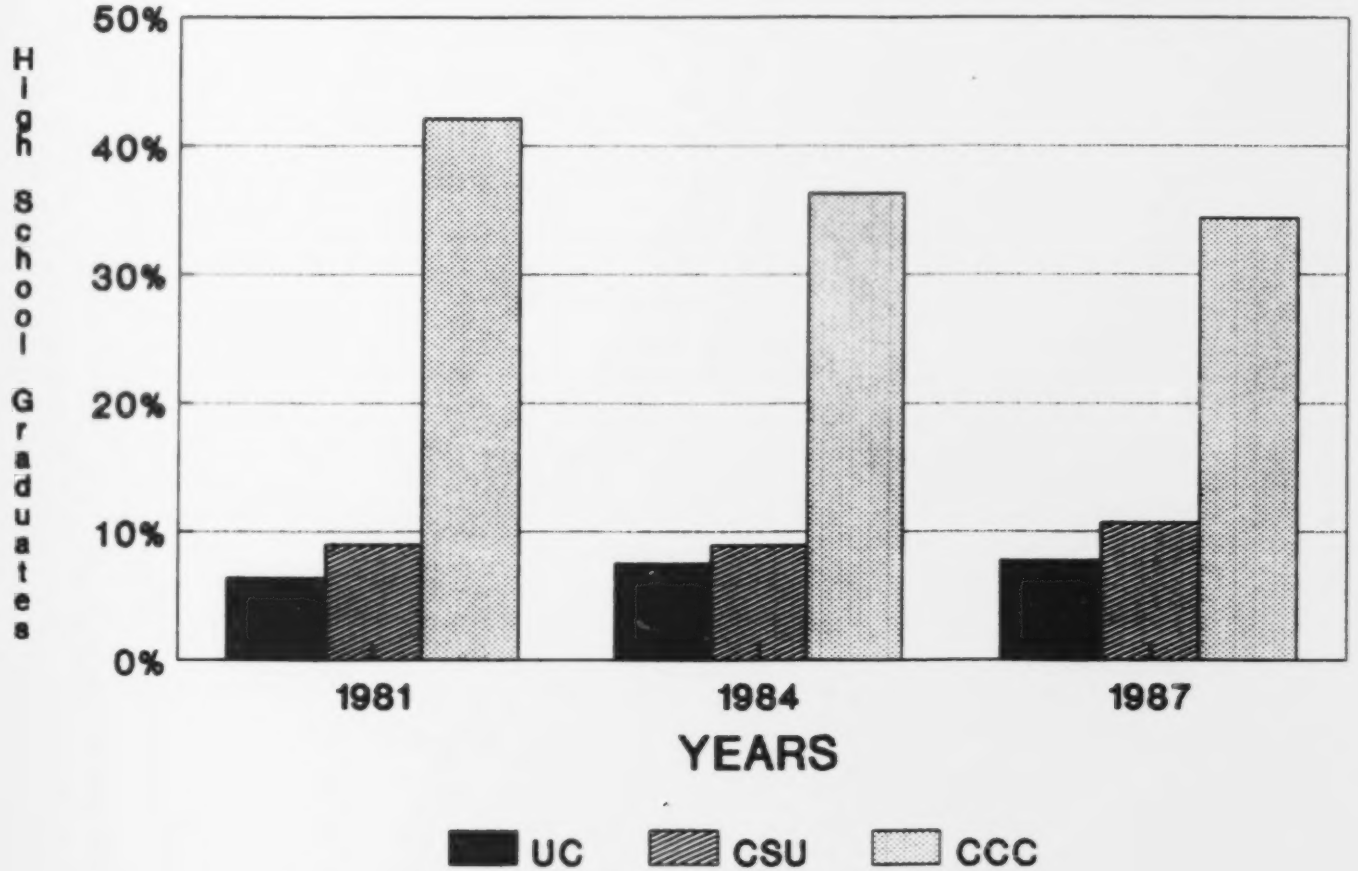
Throughout most of this decade, California community colleges have enrolled a decreasing proportion of California high school graduates each year. In 1981, 42% of high school graduates enrolled at a community college. By 1987, that figure had dropped to just over 34%. By contrast, the percent of high school graduates entering UC and CSU increased from 15.4 to 18.4 between 1984 and 1987. The consequence of this trend is that community colleges are enrolling students who, generally, are less academically-prepared than was the case at the beginning of this decade.

This trend also can be illustrated by the level of prior academic credentials held by students who do transfer. In the case of UC, 25% of community college transfers regularly admitted in the Fall 1985, also had been eligible for UC admission upon high school graduation. This compares with 32% of Fall 1983 transfers, who had been similarly eligible, and 38% of Fall 1981 transfers. Currently, about three of every four community college transfers to UC were not UC-eligible out of high school.

(see pages 20 and 21)

POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENTS

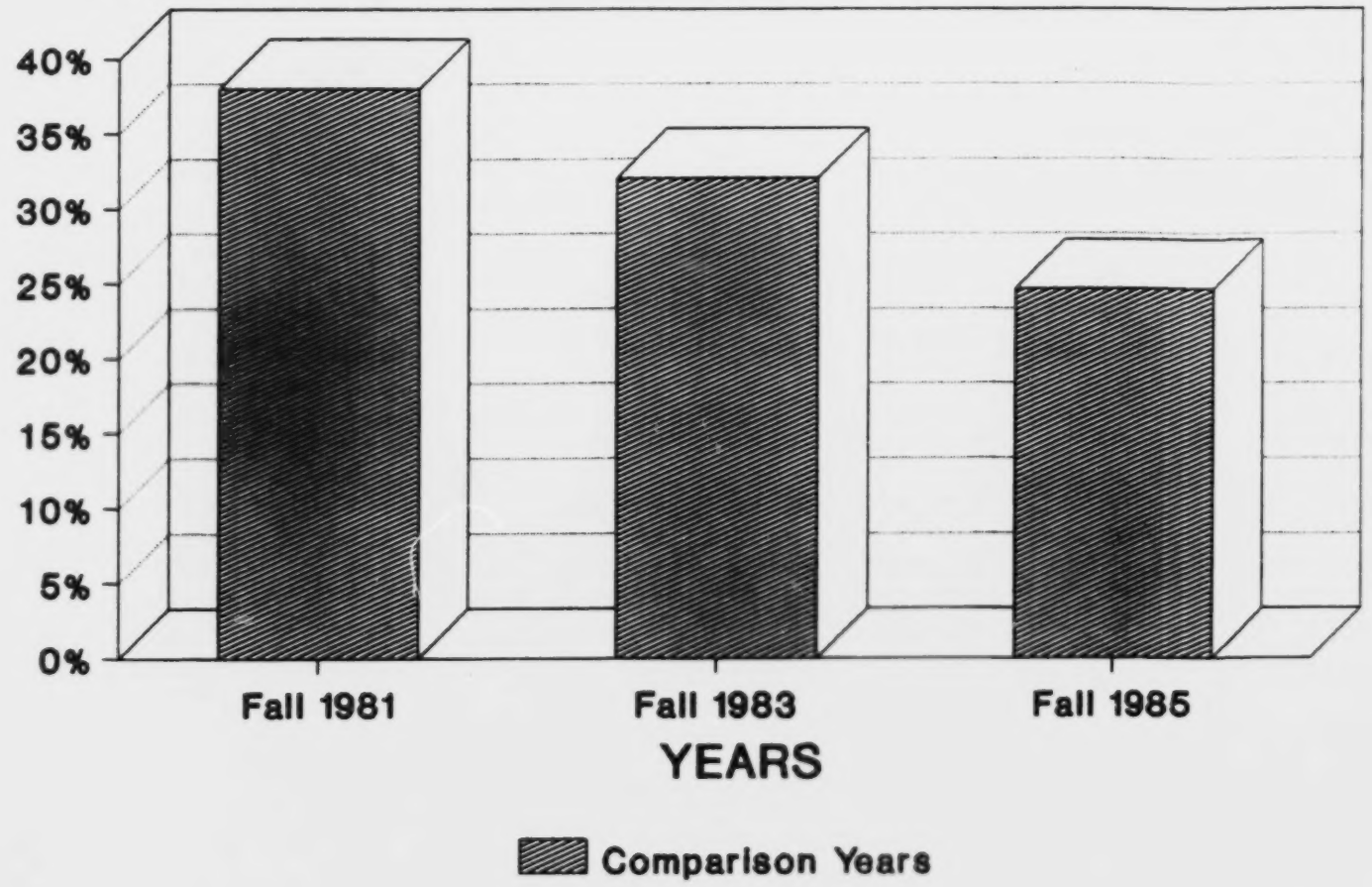
Percent of High School Graduates By Segment



Source: CPEC College-Going Rates

TRANSFERS FROM CCC TO UC

Percent Who Were Eligible Upon High School Graduation



Source: U.C. Admission & Outreach 4/88

8. HOW DO COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS PERFORM ONCE THEY TRANSFER?

After transition, generally as well as students who started as freshmen at UC and CSU, but the evidence is not conclusive. Each year, half of CSU and one-fifth of UC bachelors degree recipients are former community college students.

Community college students transferring to UC generally experience an initial GPA drop (from their lower division performance) of 0.4 to 0.5 during their first year. Transfers who were eligible for UC out of high school do virtually as well in upper division as do students who started as freshmen while transfers who were not originally-eligible perform at a GPA that is roughly 0.3 less. Studies by UC show that these relationships have been generally consistent for over a decade. Moreover, the performance of community college transfers has been similar to that of transfers to UC from four-year institutions.

Data for CSU suggest that upper division GPAs of community college transfers are equal to or slightly better than those of juniors who began their work at a CSU campus.

(see pages 23-25)

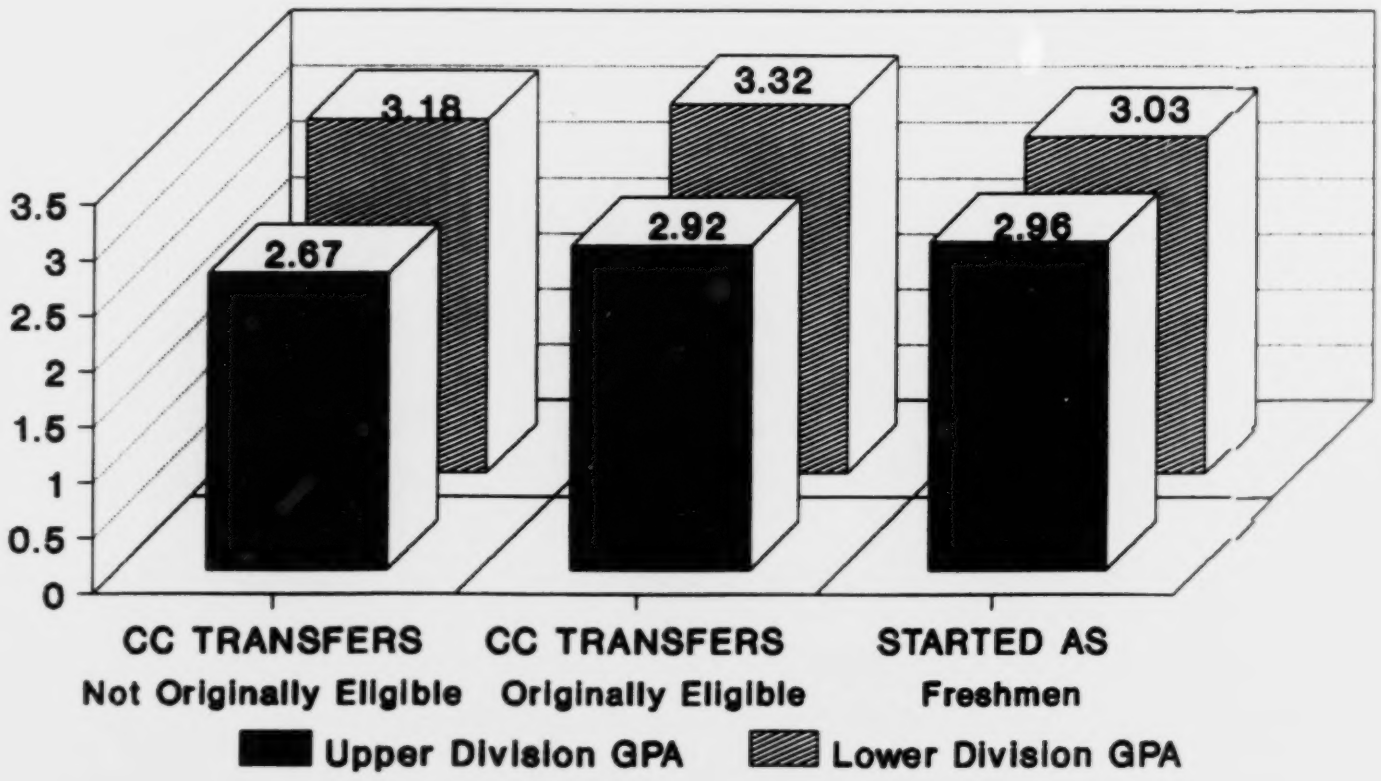
Data on persistence of transfer students to a baccalaureate degree are inconclusive. However, CSU studies suggest that within three years after transfer, two-fifths of community college transfers have graduated, two-fifths have left college for other reasons, and one-fifth is still enrolled. UC studies - by contrast - suggest that within three years, three-fifths of community college transfers have graduated. Part of the difference between UC and CSU seems to be that more students transfer to CSU before completing their lower division work and that more students attend part-time than is the case for UC transfers.

One-half of CSU bachelors' degree recipients are community college transfers. Another one-fifth of degree recipients started CSU as freshmen and the remaining 30% are transfers from other institutions. Data for UC BA/BS degree recipients show that community college transfers comprise one-fifth of the graduates. These proportions have been virtually constant this decade.

(see page 26)

UPPER DIVISION PERFORMANCE

GPA's Of CC Transfers & Students Who Started at Univ. of Calif.

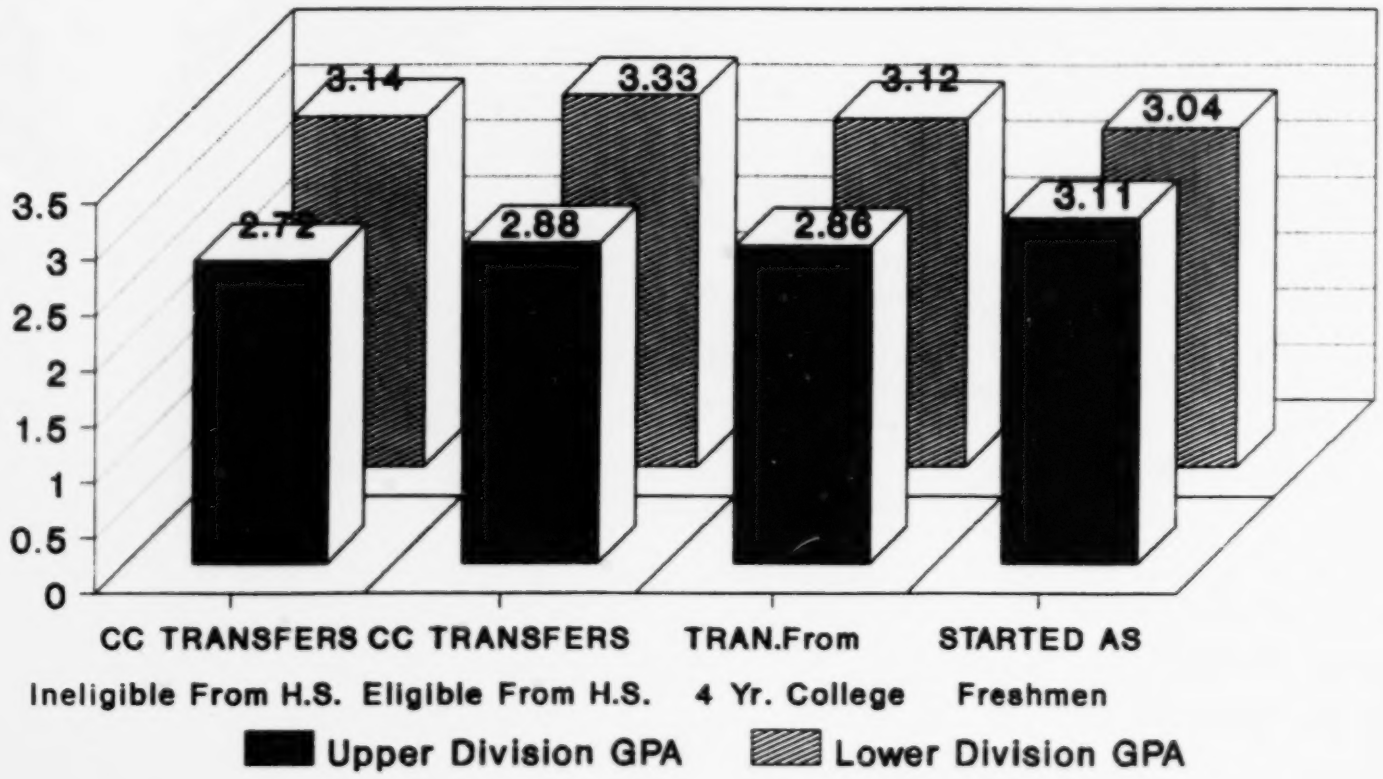


Source: UC Office of Admissions & Outreach, 1984

1982-83

UPPER DIVISION PERFORMANCE

GPA's Of CC Transfers & Students Who Started at Univ. of Calif.

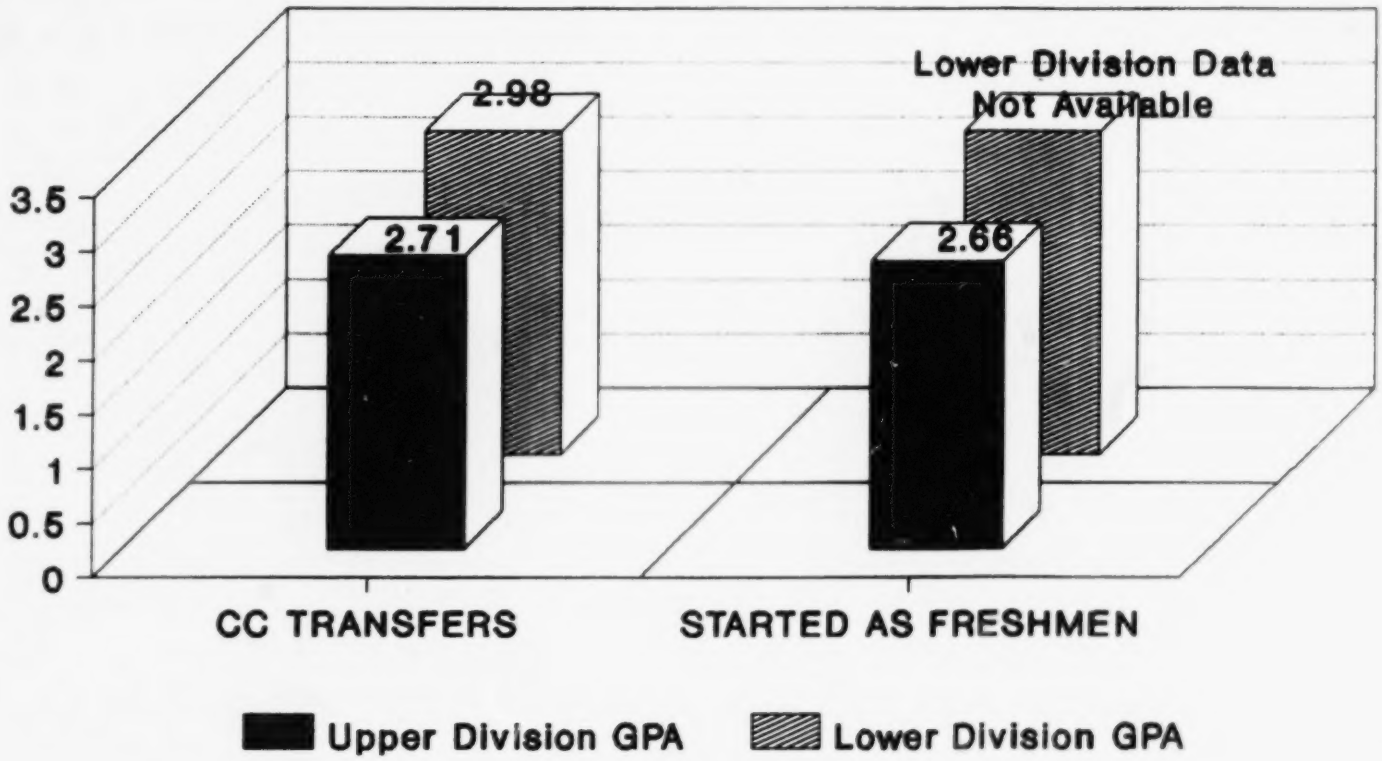


Source: UC Office of Admissions & Outreach, 1988

1985-86

UPPER DIVISION PERFORMANCE

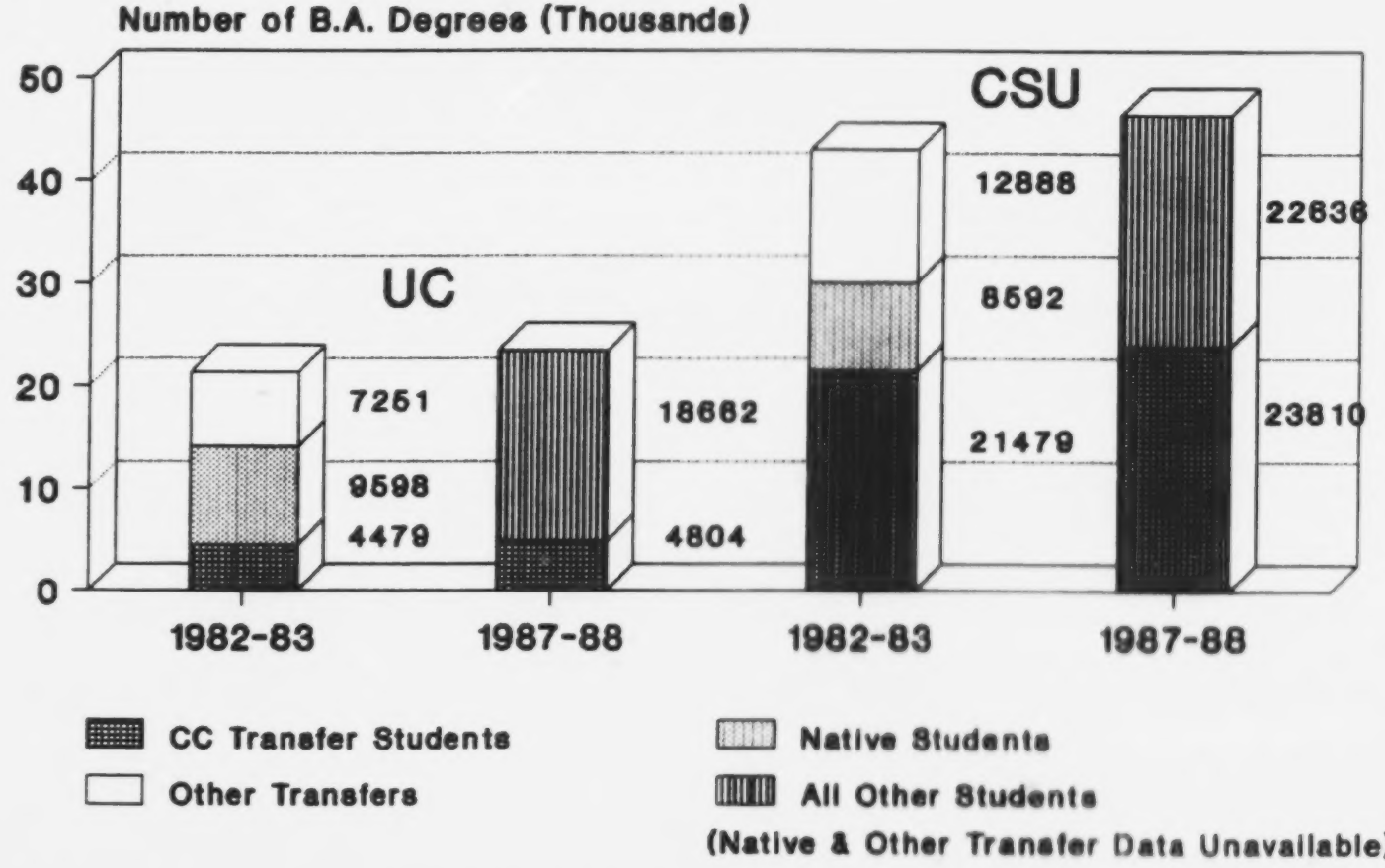
GPA'S OF CC Transfers & Students Who Started at Calif. State Univ.



Source: CSU Student Performance Report, Fall 1983

1982-83

BACCALAUREATE DEGREES FROM U.C. & C.S.U
Student Origin



Source:CPEC Reaffirming Calif. Commitment to Transfer, 1986; CPEC, 1989

9. IS POST-TRANSFER PERFORMANCE THE SAME FOR ALL RACIAL AND ETHNIC GROUPS?

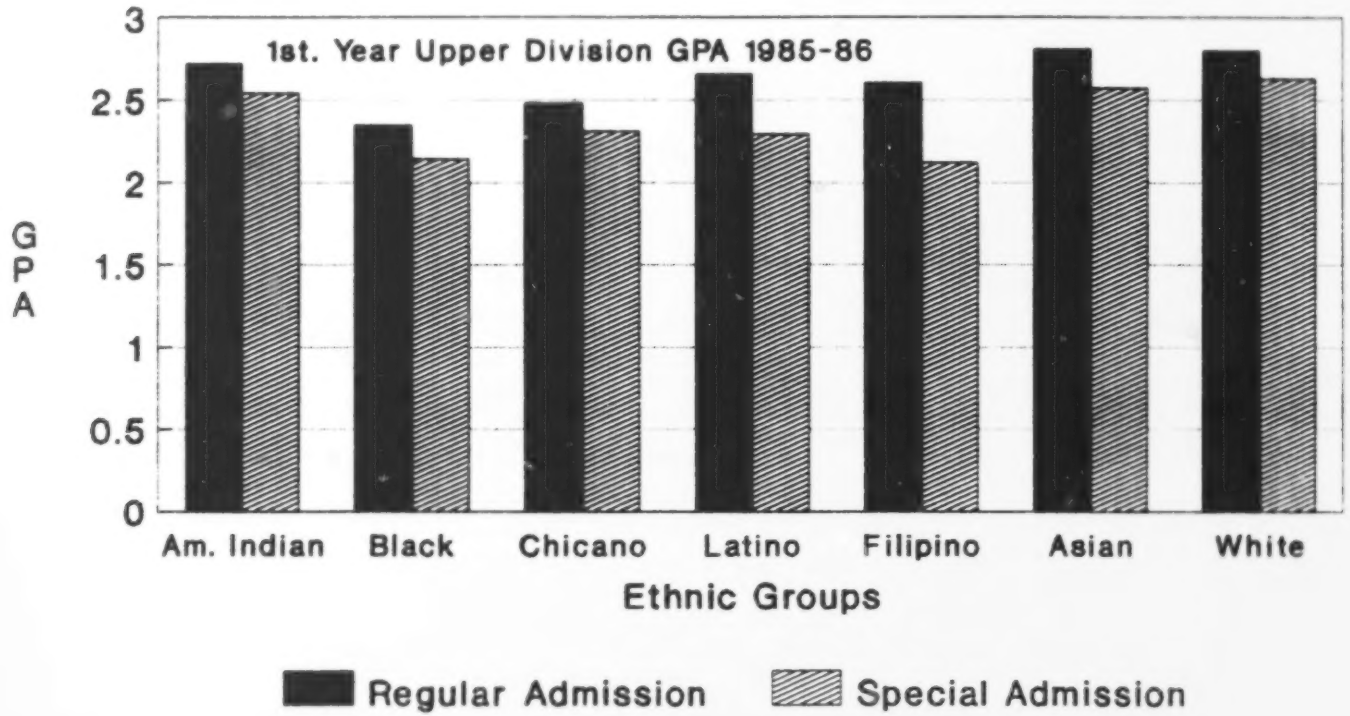
No. Black and Hispanic transfers don't do as well as Whites and Asians. But, Black and Hispanic students who started as freshmen at UC also don't do as well as their White and Asian counterparts.

The performance of transfer students is not consistent among racial and ethnic groups. The White and Asian students tend to have higher GPAs than the Hispanic or Black students. The table on page 29 illustrates the first year GPA for both regular and special admission transfers in Fall 1985.

Half of Black and American Indian transfers are special admits, meaning that they have either scholastic or course deficiencies to make up and, likely, will need special assistance to succeed in upper division. One-third of Chicanos, one-fourth of Latinos, one-third of Filipinos, one-seventh of Whites and one-tenth of Asians are special admits.

(see pages 28 and 29)

COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSFERS
First Year University of California
Grade Point Averages



Source: UC Admissions & Outreach Office, April 1988

1985-86
GRADE POINT AVERAGES

COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSFERS TO UC
FIRST YEAR

	Am. Ind.	Black	Chicano	Latino	Filipino	Asian	White
Regular Admits							
GPA	2.72	2.35	2.48	2.66	2.60	2.81	2.80
(Number)	(15)	(71)	(191)	(122)	(46)	(573)	(2523)
Special Admits							
GPA	2.54	2.14	2.31	2.29	2.12	2.57	2.63
(Number)	(22)	(71)	(104)	(41)	(24)	(56)	(381)

UC JUNIORS WHO STARTED AS FRESHMEN

GPA	2.84	2.62	2.72	2.78	2.77	2.96	2.94
(Number)	(14)	(130)	(173)	(77)	(142)	(687)	(2616)

10. WILL THE NUMBER OF POTENTIAL TRANSFER STUDENTS INCREASE OR DECREASE?

The number will probably decrease until 1992, then increase - based on the expected number of high school graduates.

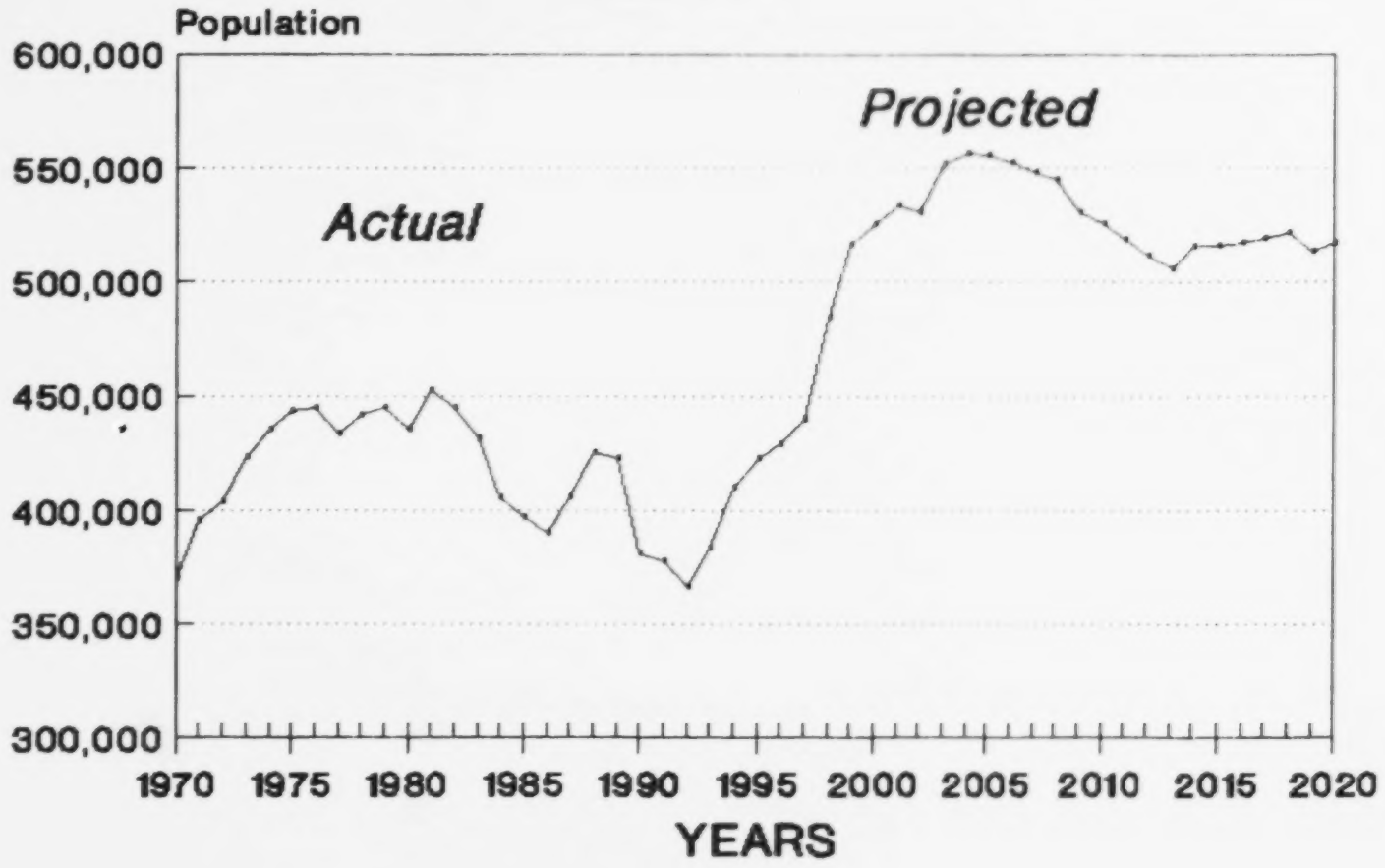
The number of 18 year- olds is used as a proxy for high school graduates due to the difficulty of predicting future high school completion rates.

Data and projections from the Department of Finance indicate that the number of 18 year-olds has generally declined during the 1980s, and will bottom out in 1992. Thereafter, rapid increases will be evident through approximately 2003, followed by a period of gradual decline.

(see page 31)

POTENTIAL TRANSFER STUDENTS

Based on Number of 18 yr. Olds



Source: Dept. Of Finance, Population Research

11. HOW WILL THE RACIAL AND ETHNIC MAKEUP OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES CHANGE?

Probably some more Asian, far more Hispanic.

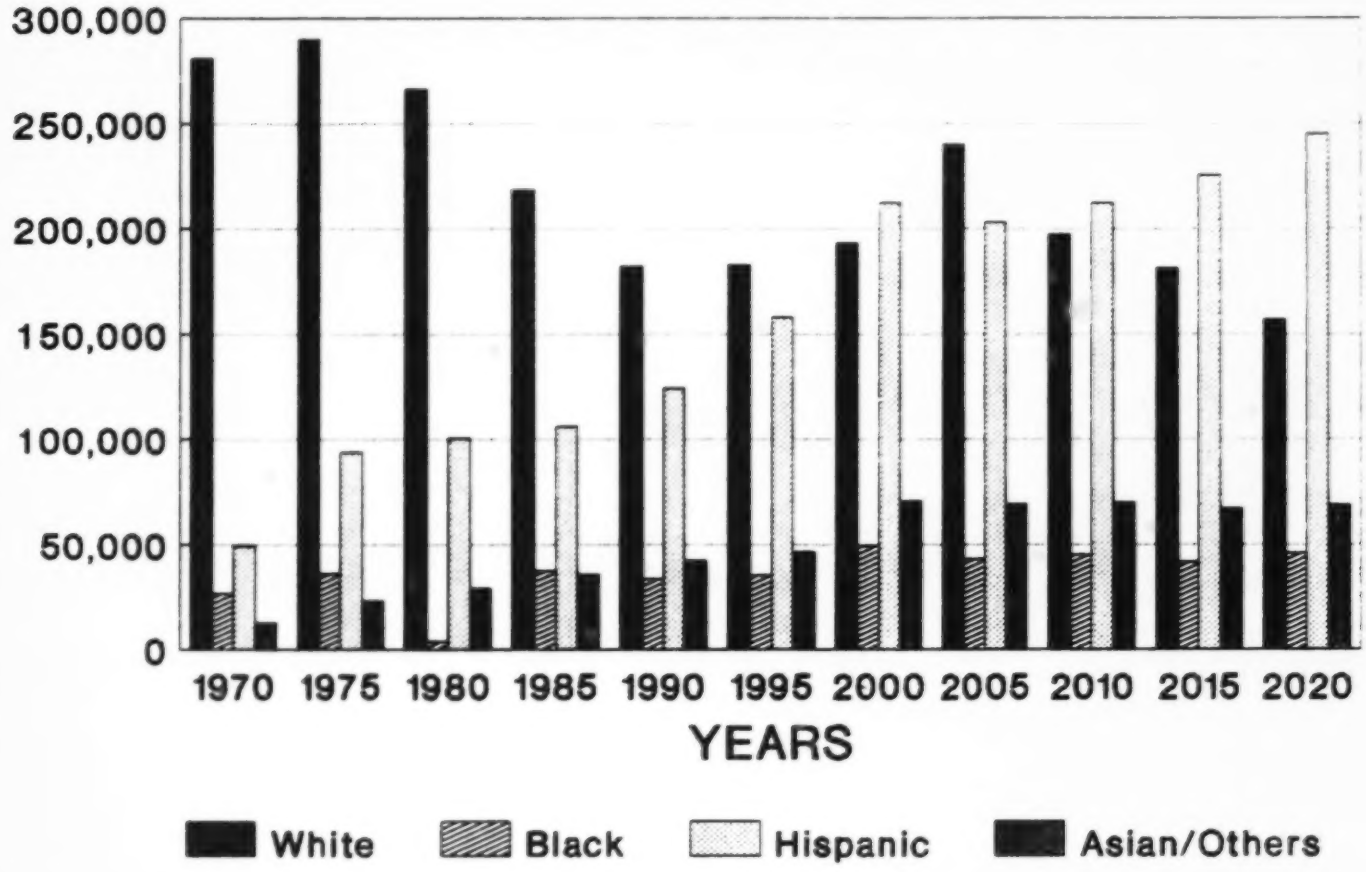
The ethnic composition of the 18 year-old population (our proxy for high school graduates) will undergo significant changes between now and the year 2020. The number of Whites will increase through 2005 and then decline to a level lower than estimated for them in 1990. Hispanics will continue to increase and by 2010 will be the largest cohort among the 18 year-olds. The Asian/Other group will increase through 2000 and remain fairly constant thereafter. Blacks show a slight increase but remain generally constant through 2020.

(see page 33)

ERIC Clearinghouse for Junior Colleges

ETHNICITY OF POTENTIAL TRANSFER STUDENTS

Based on Number of 18 yr. Olds



Source: Dept. of Finance, Population Research